

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A transfer roller (1) for transferring labels of the suction type, comprising a lateral surface (21) having a plurality of openings (2) communicating with respective suction conduits (3) to maintain a label adhering to said lateral surface (21), ~~characterised in that~~ at least one of the suction conduits (3) is being provided with at least an additional opening (5) located in a position that cannot be obstructed by the label adhering to the lateral surface (21) of the roller (1), to maintain said conduit (3) in constant communication with the external environment, wherein said additional opening (5) is positioned posteriorly to the lateral surface (21) of the roller (1) at a suction conduit (3).

2-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) Transfer roller as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said additional opening (5) is provided with at least a filter to prevent the entrance of dirt into a suction conduit (3).

7. (currently amended) Transfer roller as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each suction conduit (3) is substantially parallel to an axis of rotation of the roller (1).

8. (currently amended) Transfer roller as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it comprises at least a pair of shoes (4) projecting relative to the lateral surface (21) of the roller (1) and provided with a plurality of openings (22) communicating with respective suction conduits to maintain end portions of a label adhering to an external surface (4a) of the shoes (4).

9. (currently amended) Transfer roller as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the suction conduits (3) are inserted within an aspirating plant comprising an aspirating pump to impose a predetermined vacuum within the conduits (3) themselves.

10. (currently amended) Transfer roller as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the aspiration plant comprises at least a maximum value adjuster valve.

11. (currently amended) A Transfer roller (1) as claimed in claim 1 for transferring labels of the suction type, ~~comprising a lateral surface (21) having a plurality of openings (2) communicating with respective suction conduits (3) to maintain a label adhering to said lateral surface (21), characterised in that wherein~~ each suction conduit (3) is provided with at least such an additional opening (5) ~~located in a position that cannot be obstructed by the label adhering to the lateral surface (21) of the roller (1), to maintain each conduit (3) in constant communication with the external environment.~~

12. (currently amended) A labelling machine, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ comprising a transfer roller (1) as claimed in ~~any of the previous claims~~ claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11.